

Georgia Department of Human Resources

WHAT AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AIDS

- AIDS was the leading cause of death for African-American men and women ages 20-44 in Georgia in 2001.
- HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.
- You can have HIV for many years without showing signs of AIDS or getting sick.
- You can spread HIV to another person without ever knowing you have it.
- HIV is spread by sex, or by sharing works (needles, cooker, rinse water, cotton) to shoot drugs. Pregnant women who are infected can also pass it to their babies.
- More than half of the African American men with AIDS in Georgia got it by having unprotected sex with an infected partner. About a fourth of the men were infected by sharing works to shoot drugs.

Prevention steps you can take

- You can choose not to have sex at all.
- Make sure you use a latex condom correctly every time you have sex. Never use a condom more than once. Help your partner understand that condoms can save both lives.
- Get some condoms and read the instructions. Make sure you understand how they are used. You can get free condoms from most county health departments or community groups working to prevent AIDS.
- If you use drugs, get help and try to quit. If you continue to inject drugs, never share works. Using sterile needles and syringes only once remains the safest, most effective approach for limiting HIV transmission.

If you want to be sure you don't have HIV

- Get tested, and go back for your test results. Call your county health department to find out the location, hours and cost. All testing is confidential. Anonymous testing is also available, which means you don't have to give your name. You won't be turned away if you can't pay.

Where to go for information about HIV/AIDS

- Your doctor or your county health department.
- Call the **Georgia AIDS Information Line, 1-800-551-2728**. You won't have to give your name. They can answer your questions or refer you to community outreach programs.
- **Helpline Georgia, 1-800-338-6745**, can tell you about drug treatment programs.